

Dear FCC,I am writing in reference to the review of broadcast ownership rules.

Rather than loosen the restrictions on the number of broadcast outlets owned, the FCC should be considering tightening those rules. There seems to be little evidence that local audiences are better served by having a national firm owning most or all of the broadcast outlets in any market. Other than economies of scale, which certainly have not proven to be as efficient as touted given the continuing failure of large companies, there is little reason to consider the relaxing of the current rules to be in the public's interest. Rather, there is every reason to believe that providing programming with little local influence will provide greatly decreased utility to the average viewer or listener.

The distance between these large owners and local people is a large barrier to responsiveness and knowledge of the needs of the local community. There is also the risk of those who have large amounts of money attempting to manipulate the dissemination of information which is a clear danger to a democracy. We have come to depend upon the press, including broadcast media, to make informed decisions from a variety of perspectives.

Finally, I would like to comment on the FCC's electronic comment filing procedure. It is far from user-friendly. Receiving 50 comments per day does not justify the complexity of the required formatting. It also appears that the FCC is negligent in providing adequate information on the web site to adhere to the formatting. When I went to the page [www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/reviewrules.html](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/reviewrules.html), it is lacking the docket number, the filing date and any link to make a comment. Also, the link to the document-type codes on the ECFs Instructions page did not work when I clicked on that. It makes one wonder if the FCC is really serious about hearing from the public.

Sincerely,

John L. Councilman

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